



Tasker Jevons: The Real Story

May Sinclair (1863 - 1946)

Dashing newsman Walter Furnival is an absurdly good catch: handsome, successful, athletic, intelligent, an upstanding epitome of manhood. Tasker Jevons is a puny, preposterous, impossible-looking, bombastic sports writer, without a single redeeming social grace. Imagine Furny's jealous mortification when his enchanting young typist and love interest, Viola Thesiger, chooses the clownish Jevons as a lover, seeing in him a remarkable inner beauty not evident to anyone but her and (as he grudgingly but magnanimously admits) the long-suffering Furnival. But despite the title, the central character of the novel is not the redoubtable Jevons but the rebellious feminist Viola, determined against all odds not only to revolt against every enslaving conformity of her upbringing, but also to burn all her boats behind her, ruthlessly leaving herself no possibility of a return to the soporific decorum of her cloistered family and past. This extraordinary ménage, however, is broken apart by the irruption of the Great War into their lives.



MAY SINCLAIR



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Charles L'Eplattenier, *Portrait of a Soldier in Uniform*, 1914
John Singer Sargent, *Portrait of Alice Appleton Hay as a Young Woman*, 1919

